

## **Historic, Archive Document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



a SD/452

# Forest Service NEWS



Pacific Northwest Region  
USDA • Forest Service

News Contacts:

(503) 465-6771  
Jeff Kent  
U.S. Attorney  
Dept. of Justice,  
Eugene

10-31-91

B-1

Alk

Pacific Northwest Region  
Public Affairs Office  
333 S.W. First Ave.  
P.O. Box 3623  
Portland, OR 97208

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## COLUMBIA RIVER TIMBER SCALER INDICTED FOR NATIONAL FOREST TIMBER THEFT

PORTLAND, October 31--Regional Forester John Butruille confirmed today the opening of a sealed indictment by the Federal Grand Jury in Eugene.

Retired production scaler Paul Knapp, Columbia River Log Scaling and Grading Bureau (Columbia River), was indicted for conspiring with several unindicted co-conspirators to defraud the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, of its contractual and property rights in connection with timber removed from National Forest lands. The indictment charges that while he worked as a production scaler for Columbia River, Knapp mis-scaled logs to the advantage of Thomas Creek Lumber and Log, and Young and Morgan, Inc. and their affiliates and others to the detriment of the U.S. Government.

The indictment also charges that:

- \* Timber was scaled as non-merchantable when it was, in fact, merchantable.
- \* Lower volumes and lower grades were used than actually existed.
- \* Knapp intentionally submitted falsified scale tickets, fraudulently reporting log volumes, species, and grades, which resulted in payments of less than contract value to the Forest Service.

-MORE-

CO. SERIALS BRANCH  
DEC 11 '91  
USDA LIBRARY  
RECEIVED





## **TIMBER THEFT--continued**

\* Knapp acted with Thomas Creek Lumber and Log or Young and Morgan, Inc. and their affiliates and Columbia River Scaling and Grading Bureau and others to cover up and conceal the fraudulent mis-scaling and loss to the government.

\* Knapp gave false statements to the Forest Service, FBI and IRS investigators and committed perjury before the Grand Jury.

According to Regional Forester John Butruille, "This action fits closely with the Forest Service effort of wanting to work to eliminate the corrupt and fraudulent practices of some operators so that other elements of the industry can compete for government timber free from the unfair advantage taken by those who cheat."

"The Forest Service is aggressively pursuing individuals involved in this kind of fraudulent action that cheats the public out of dollars they are entitled to from forest resources," said Butruille.

"Traditionally, when we hear of timber theft, we think of trees that are actually cut and removed in secret from the forest. However, this is a white-collar crime involving conspiracy, bribery and complex planning on the part of the offenders to defraud the government," added Butruille.

The Forest Service will present claims to the unindicted co-conspirators for payment for damages of over \$1,900,000. As with other receipts, 25% or almost \$500,000 of this amount will be returned to the counties.

In addition, a temporary suspension of scaling for Thomas Creek Lumber and Log or Young and Morgan, Inc. and their affiliates has been imposed on Columbia River Log Scaling and Grading Bureau. This suspension will continue until Columbia River has taken action to eliminate fraudulent mis-scaling, as well as employees and managers involved in the fraudulent activity. The Forest Service may also cancel existing timber sale contracts where appropriate.





## **TIMBER THEFT--continued**

Other Forest Service actions include:

- \* Creation of a National Task Force to assist with the identification and investigation of this type of case, i.e. fraud and conspiracy, which result in a loss to the Government and taxpayers.
- \* Continuing to implement Timber Theft Prevention Plans which led, in part, to this indictment.
- \* Accelerating the change from scaled sales to tree measurement (lump sum) sales.
- \* Concurrently pursuing criminal, administrative actions and civil damages where necessary.

**###**





a SD/  
u5  
Lynn ✓

# Forest Service NEWS



Pacific Northwest Region  
USDA • Forest Service

News Contacts:

(503) 326-4084

Sandy Berger

(503) 326-2949

Dean Lee

B-2

12-13-91

8/11

Pacific Northwest Region  
Public Affairs Office  
333 S.W. First Ave.  
P.O. Box 3623  
Portland, OR 97208

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## NATIONAL FORESTS RECEIPTS YIELD \$182 MILLION TO OREGON AND WASHINGTON

PORTLAND, December 13-- Pacific Northwest Regional Forester John F. Butruille announced today that 31 counties in Oregon and 27 in Washington received \$181,985,390.09 as their portion of national forest receipts collected in fiscal year 1991.

The Oregon amount totals \$141,176,614.05 and Washington state received \$40,808,776.04. Last year's respective totals were \$149,671,844.62 and \$36,850,575.11.

By law, 25 percent of the revenues collected by the Forest Service from the use of national forest system lands and resources are returned to the states as a source of funds for schools and roads. The funds are collected primarily from timber sales, grazing, recreation, and mining on the 191 million acres of national forest system lands.

These payments do not include 25 percent of the 1991 national grassland revenues. Those payments are based on calendar year receipts and will be made in March 1992.

The final payments to Oregon, Washington, and California were computed under a provision of the Interior and Related Agencies 1991 Appropriations Act. Section 316 of that Act provides for payments to States for fiscal year 1991 of not less than 90% of the three-year average payments for fiscal years 1988-90 for those national forests affected by decisions on the northern spotted owl. Payments to those states would be lower if based solely on actual receipts.

###





## OREGON:

Baker	\$ 1,176,072.24
Benton	405,191.95
Clackamas	5,941,365.11
Coos	672,800.42
Crook	5,168,846.46
Curry	4,795,924.73
Deschutes	3,277,578.32
Douglas	18,888,630.26
Grant	10,754,045.58
Harney	5,089,341.41
Hood River	2,471,323.38
Jackson	4,968,202.99
Jefferson	599,890.63
Josephine	2,602,307.90
Klamath	13,313,713.01
Lake	4,279,170.20
Lane	28,185,683.44
Lincoln	4,264,378.19
Linn	9,412,452.72
Malheur	9,109.04
Marion	3,531,351.32
Morrow	376,524.43
Multnomah	885,460.47
Polk	7,900.13
Tillamook	2,291,458.60
Umatilla	1,018,317.53
Union	944,077.94
Wallowa	1,117,680.04
Wasco	2,454,314.97
Wheeler	1,640,000.04
Yamhill	633,500.60

---

141,176,614.05

Interim Pmt 102,552,542.52

---

Final Pmt 38,624,071.53

## WASHINGTON:

Asotin	\$ 141,348.07
Chelan	2,155,756.14
Clallam	2,031,520.17
Clark	13,798.27
Columbia	419,075.73
Cowlitz	381,323.27
Douglas	2.99
Ferry	943,445.79
Garfield	250,833.24
Grays Harbor	584,696.06
Jefferson	2,737,971.88
King	2,173,755.93
Kittitas	885,707.05
Klickitat	161,965.92
Lewis	4,818,937.03
Mason	644,430.56
Okanogan	1,954,045.67
Pend Oreille	1,011,506.01
Pierce	777,344.91
Skagit	1,147,298.58
Skamania	9,846,454.26
Snohomish	2,076,162.54
Stevens	436,612.40
Thurston	3,858.76
Walla Walla	6,392.56
Whatcom	1,853,408.27
Yakima	3,351,123.98

---

40,808,776.04

30,486,440.74

---

10,322,335.30





asDI  
45

# Forest Service NEWS



Pacific Northwest Region  
USDA • Forest Service

News Contacts:

(714) 276-6646

Larry Hawkins

(APHIS)

Ray Steiger (FS)

(503) 326-2971

B-3

12-20-91

57A

Pacific Northwest Region  
Public Affairs Office  
333 S.W. First Ave.  
P.O. Box 3623  
Portland, OR 97208

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## ASIAN GYPSY MOTH REGIONAL PROJECT TEAM ORGANIZED

PORTLAND, December 20--Officials of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the Forest Service met on December 19 with state agriculture officials from Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and California to discuss a cooperative response to the pest threat posed by the Asian gypsy moth.

Egg masses of the Asian gypsy moth (*Lymantria dispar*) were detected on ships arriving in Pacific Northwest ports from Siberia earlier this year. At least 5 adult male Asian gypsy moths have been identified in the states of Washington and Oregon.

"APHIS, Forest Service, and state agricultural officials are coordinating resources and strategies through a regional project team," said team leader Gary Smith. Smith is the officer in charge of APHIS' Plant Protection and Quarantine office in Portland. "The Asian gypsy moth project team will have a detection and eradication action plan in place by early spring to deal with an Asian gypsy moth infestation if necessary."

Asian gypsy moth caterpillars, like their Northeastern U.S. cousins, have voracious appetites for the leaves of trees and shrubs, posing a threat to forested areas and suburban trees. Asian gypsy moths pose a more serious risk because the female moth, a strong flier, could rapidly spread an infestation over a large area.

###



